

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, November 8, 1901, with transcript, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B.

November 8, 1901. Dear Mabel:

Hard at work on lecture on "Aerial Locomotion" for tonight. Have given a cheque of \$25.00 as a present from you with your compliments and to show your interest in the Victorian Order of Nurses Movement. My lecture is to aid the movement.

I enclose Promissory note for \$200.00 signed by the Dunlop Brothers. Please put in safe at American Security and Trust Company.

Ask Miss Safford to typewrite enclosed notes making them the beginning of a Volume III of notes — commencing with page 453. Let her head each page on following model:

"1901, November 8th, received following notes at Volts Bureau." Then copy dates of Beinn Bhreagh notes "1901 November 8th, Friday — at Beinn Bhreagh" etc. Can send other notes to you to be typewritten by Miss Safford. Will send these notes tomorrow. Need them for lecture tonight.

Much encouraged by appearance of National Geographic Magazine. Some evidence of life in it. Bert's hand shows in it — wish he would write more and correct other people's productions less. His hard work in the past does not show. Fancy he has spent too much time in re-writing articles by others. The specimen — and the only specimen — I saw, revealed a lamentable waste of time — for the changes 2 were merely verbal — original expressions just as good as corrected ones — and probably preferable to original writer — mere alternatives which should not occupy attention of Editor and take up his time so that he cannot write himself. If he wrote himself he would have no time to tinker the

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productions of others who would have to shoulder their own sins. Editor should certainly not be responsible for the language and phraseology of his contributors. It not only should not come within the scope of his duties but it is a most thankless task. A very slight change in phraseology would offend the author himself — though no one else. All the credit of good composition and etc., goes to the author and Editor's work does not show. Would like to see three-fourths of the Magazine Bert's work. If his time were occupied in making the Magazine he would have no time left to do the work of others for them. Slovenly contributors would have to stand by their own language or employ a friend to re-write their articles for them. It should be no part of the duty of the Editor to write contributor's articles for them unless he gets the credit — so as to have something to show to the Society as a return for salary and etc. Good idea — where a contributor's article is written in such a slovenly manner that it should not be printed and the author cannot undertake its revision why should not Editor re-write it as an Editorial — or Review — or Interview etc., giving the author due credit as “Gen. Greely says — Gen. Greely thinks” and etc.

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My lecture — Oh! my lecture — can't afford time to write any more before mail time.

Your loving husband, Alec. Mrs. A. G. Bell, 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C.